FEB 1952 51-4AA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

DO NOT CLASS

DATE DISTR. 18 September 1952

IFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY SUBJECT

25X1

Hungary

Developments in the Hungarian Army

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

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- 1. The organization of corps troops is now in progress. Each corps is supposed to have the following attached troops:
 - One Communications battalion, consisting of 2 communications construction companies, 1 telephone company, 1 radio telephone company. The organization of these is only in the beginning stages.
 - b. One motorcycle military police battalion; these are organized.
 - c. One assault gun "abteilung" (Note: here specifically distinguished from a battalion) with Russian 85 mm.assault guns. Not yet complete.
 - d. One motorized medium howitzer regiment, consisting of two abteilungs. Each abteilung has two batteries, equipped with 152 mm, howitzers. Organization complete.
 - One motorized heavy mortar regiment, consisting of two abteilungs, each with two batteries equipped with heavy 160 mm.mortars. Organization now in progress.
- 2. The corps commands have a strong voice in the training of these troops.
- 3. There is a good deal of talk about placing the AVH border guards under the command of the Army. The point has not yet been decided, as there is a strong rivalry between the Army and the Party. The Party wishes to build the AVH into something like the Russian MVD, as an armed organ of the Communists, and also, since the AVH units are regarded as more reliable than those of the army, to retain them as a counterweight to the Army. The Army argues that since the AVH are very well equipped and trained, they represent an amount of fire power that should be under Army leadership in the case of war.

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- 4. The best troops of the Army are the armored division and the mechanized division. Besides the armored, artillery and technical units they have together 13 motorized battalions. The two divisions now have between them 22-25 heavy JS tanks, 40-45 Soviet 85 mm, assault guns and 320-330 T-34/85 tanks.
- 5. The headquarters of the st Mangarian Fighter Division is at Kúnmadaras Airfield.

 The equipment of its units with modern material is in progress. Aside from this, Hungary has three independent air regiments, which can hardly be regarded as useful in support tasks, because their equipment is obsolescent.
- 6. The total number of the Hungarian Army is 250,000 to 280,000 men. Development has been hindered by lack of barracks. There is an effort to relieve this by reconstruction of some of the aristocratic castles seized in 1945. Thus an artillery regiment, and three technical battalions have been quartered in the castle of Prince Festetch at Keszthely, and the Eszterháza Castle at Tata is now used by the Armored Officers' School.
- 7. At present, members of five yearly classes are on active service, apart from the "volunteers" of two other classes. Troops of the classes of 1930 and 1931 are in their first year of service, those of 1928 and 1929 are in their second year, and those of the 1927 and 1928 classes are in their third year with technical troops, artillery and air units. Members of the 1932 and 1933 classes are serving on a volunteer basis with technical and air troops with the objective of becoming career officers, after having been chosen by the Party. Their numbers can be expected to decrease, since many will only attain noncommissioned officer ranks, and others will not be taken into active service on a career basis.
- 8. According to the current plan, the strength of the Army is to be increased to 350,000-360,000 by the end of the year. In May 1952, it was announced that larger number of recruits would be taken in in October and November 1952. It is planned that if the international position permits, large contingents of the currently serving classes will be released in the fall. On the other hand, members of older classes who have as yet done no service are to be called up, and other contingents recalled for refresher training.
- 9. The number of active officers and noncommissioned officers is about 16,000. They are subjected to continual purges, as in all Communist countries. Many new of ficers have to be relieved for lack of technical knowledge. A short time ago there was an effort to take in former staff officers and active former noncommissioned officers because of their technical training. The rule was to take in those who had no record of anti-Communism, but to place them in lower ranks than they held in the old army. As frequently happens in Communist countries, one department does not know what the other is doing; most of the notices of recall to the colors were returned with the annotation that the persons could not be located. The AVH and the Party had rated them as unreliable and had them deported. Some were dead, some in the USSR, others working as forced laborers in mines.

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